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GN 6/15/05

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please substitute original claim number 28 with the currently amended claim having the same claim number.

1. (withdrawn) A method of delivering antigen to dendritic cells comprising:  
contacting dendritic cells with apoptotic cells expressing an antigen wherein said contact is for a time sufficient to allow said antigen to be internalized by the dendritic cells, and wherein said apoptotic cells have been induced in vitro to become apoptotic.
2. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 1 wherein the dendritic cells are human.
3. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 1 wherein the apoptotic cells are selected from the group consisting of cells of a cell line, cells which have been transformed to express a foreign antigen, tumor cell line, xenogeneic cells, or tumor cells.
4. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 3 wherein the apoptotic cells are selected from the group consisting of monocytes, 293 cells, L cells, Hela cells, B cells and EL4 cells.
5. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 1 further comprising the step of inducing apoptosis of cells expressing said antigen to produce the apoptotic cells.
6. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 5 wherein apoptosis is induced by infection with influenza virus.
7. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 5 wherein apoptosis is induced by irradiation with ultraviolet light, gamma radiation, steroids, serum deprivation, cytokines, or drugs.
8. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 5 wherein apoptosis is induced by depriving antigen donor cells of nutrients in the cell culture medium.
9. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 1 wherein dendritic cells are exposed to a preparation of apoptotic cell fragments, blebs, or bodies containing antigen.